



From left to right: Nicolae Grigorescu - Portrait of a Young Woman; Stefan Lucian - House after a Rainfall; Gheorghe Petrescu - Venice-Ponte Rialto; Nicolae Tonitza - Mangalia Houses; Theodor Pallady - Street in Saint-Paul; Marius Bunescu - Sula House; Francisc Sirato - Women of Rucăr; Henri Catargi - Landscape; Victor Brauner - Portrait of a Woman



## WATERCOLOUR

A painting genre of bright atmosphere and clarity, generally characterized by fluency, transparency and fluidity, watercolour does not depict whole of full meaning but a fragmented chain of reflections of the reality, according to the nature of the artist's outlook, a breath in the continuous flow of this reality captured by the painter with the rapidly and freshness of notation. In the evolution of Romanian art watercolour has been the primordial element through which the artists have permanently freshened up their retina and preserved the image of nature alive. Used by most Romanian painters, this spontaneous and rapid technique has secured the freedom of expression.

Lying at the conference between graphics and painting, yet depending on painting through its chromatic values, the technique of aquarello has in the course of time undergone mutations in the means of expression dictated by the new artistic orientation, often contributing to the elaboration of the plastic language of painters in whose creative undertaking the graphic or pictorial side was more marked, in keeping with the temperament and sensitivity of each of them. It is the case of Nicolae Grigorescu (1858-1907), Stefan Lucian (1893-1914), Theodor Pallady (1871-1958), Gheorghe Petrescu (1872-1919), Marius Bunescu (1881-1971), Francisc Sirato (1877-1953), Nicolae Tonitza (1888-1910) etc. Thus watercolour, largely illustrative, has become a trend manifest in the Romanian flux, shedding light on the value of the painter's contribution to the development and maturation of various artistic trends.

P. GEORGE ■



## ROMANIAN NEWS

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# ROMANIAN NEWS



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## A FRUITFUL DIALOGUE WITH WORKING PEOPLE NICOLAE CEAUSESCU AND ELENA CEAUSESCU'S WORKING VISIT TO THE BRAŞOV TRUCK ENTERPRISE

On Friday, August 12, Nicolae Ceauşescu, General Secretary of the Romanian Communist Party, President of Romania, and Elena Ceauşescu paid a working visit to the Truck Manufacturing Enterprise in Braşov.

The RCP and Romanian state leaders' new dialogue with the truck manufacturers centered on an analysis of the way in which the plan is being fulfilled, of the technical and human potential available in that industrial unit, with a view to generally fulfilling plan tasks for 1983 and the whole five-year period.

Production sectors were seen from where significant data were supplied on the fulfilment of plan tasks and that collectively's concern to attain economic indicators.

During the visit, emphasis was placed on the contribution made by the research work conducted by the enterprise's experts for the modernization of production flows and the growth of the metal utilization index.

Expressing appreciation for these accomplishments, President Nicolae Ceauşescu requested that they be applied and expanded on a broader scale in machine-building enterprises.

During his visit, the RCP General Secretary talked to workers and experts about the way in which plan tasks were fulfilled, about the action taken to continuously raise the quality of products. He also inquired about working conditions in the enterprise and the people's problems related to their lives and their work.

The analysis of the way in which the tasks incumbent on truck manufacturers in the ongoing year and the entire quinquennium are fulfilled, of programmes for updating production and manufacturing technologies, for boosting productivity and improving the quality of production, continued during the Party General Secretary's meeting with the members of the council of working people of the enterprise.

Taking the floor during the meeting, President Nicolae Ceauşescu showed the Truck Manufacturing Enterprise in Braşov to have developed considerably in recent years, to have at present a very large volume of fixed assets, a strong collective of highly-skilled workers and experienced technicians, technicians and engineers, and a powerful party organization.

Referring to the immediate tasks incumbent on truck manufacturers, the President called attention to the need for urgent action to make up for arrears, technical and organizational measures being taken to fulfil the basic indicators under the 1983 plan. To that end, the council of working people was called upon to analyse the way in which the enterprise's workers and experts, in their capacity as owners, producers and end users, manage the facilities entrusted to them by society.



## AUGUST 23 OUR NATIONAL HOLIDAY

1944 — 1988

A crucial moment for the destiny of the Romanian nation, the revolutionary act of August 23, 1944, was not only the brilliant sequel of the heroic revolutionary struggle against fascism, but also the opening act of a new era in the Romanian people's millennial history. The events of August 1944 marked the beginning of the anti-fascist and anti-imperialist revolution of social and national liberation which brought to an end not only Romania's participation in a war looted by all the Romanian social classes, but also the foreign occupation, the imperialist domination and the country's political isolation. The August 23 act represents the outcome of intense historical accumulations of the same time being a lawful continuation of the struggle for fulfilling the supreme national ideals and a new superior stage in that process.

Started when the defeat of Nazi Germany was still a long way off, at a time when the human and material potentials of the United Nations and of the Axis were reaching full saturation, the revolution was prepared and launched under the leadership of the National Democratic Bloc, the broadest coalition of political forces ever seen in the history of the nation. The achievement of that coalition of political forces was seen in the historic role played by the Communist Party, played an important role in guiding the whole people in the fight for the only means for securing back Romania's national independence and sovereignty as well as the north-western part of the country, snatched away by the fascist Vienna Award.

(cont. on p. 2)



cont. from page 1

In August 1944, the social and political forces in Romania were not divided into opposed groupings and camps, which had a decisive importance for the victory of the revolution. Quite telling is the community of objectives laid down in the Proclamation to the country of the head of state, in the Declaration of the newly-formed government — which for the first time in the country's history also included representatives of the communist party — and in the Declaration of the CC of the RCP: toppling Antonescu's dictatorship, establishing a democratic regime, guaranteeing civil rights and freedoms, making amity with the United Nations and freeing the national territory from the Hitlerite and Northatist occupation.

The Declaration of the Central Committee of the Romanian Communist Party released on August 24, 1944 comprised a vibrant appeal to the entire people, calling for the workers, the peasants, the intellectuals and all Romania's citizens to fight unsparringly, with all weapons, against the Romanian people's deadly enemy, for the assurance of its future.

After the call of the commu-

nist party, the fight against the Hitlerian Wehrmacht was the character of a popular war. The patriotic fight groups and practically most of the civil population had an important role in obtaining the final victory. Fully understanding its patriotic responsibility, the Romanian army immediately and intelligently started to fight against the Hitlerian occupiers, liberating through its own forces, between August 23 and 31, the whole territory under the jurisdiction of the Romanian government at that time. Then until October 23, the Romanian soldiers liberated, next to the Soviet army, producing great casualties and material losses to the enemy, the north-western part of the country, taken away by Northy's Hungary four years before.

In the ample political and socioeconomic programme of the communist party, the main question was the union of all national forces in their fight for the country's liberation, for the defeat of fascism. In order to reach these historical desiderata, the communist party launched the mobilizing call "Everything for the front, every-

thing for victory!", which at that time became the catchphrase of the whole Romanian nation.

The victorious fight started on August 23, 1944 inaugurated the new way of implementing the Romanian people's aspiration for freedom. The antifascist and antimperialist revolution of social and national liberation became stronger and stronger, the masses led by the communist party engaging in a long process of changing Romania's socioeconomic structure. Referring to the historic significance of this event, the Party General Secretary, Nicolae Ceaușescu stressed that "the antifascist and antimperialist revolution of social and national liberation opened the path to carrying out the democratic revolution, the socialist revolution and the passage to building socialism. It ensured the conditions necessary for the great revolutionary changes." A new age of great transformation started, an age of creating a free, socialist, independent and sovereign Romania, so that after the Ninth RCP Congress Romanian could enter the most fertile age of its whole history, that of completing the construction of socialism and the passage to building the communist society.

## ELENA CEAUȘESCU RECEIVED THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT, CHAIRMAN OF THE STATE COMMISSION FOR TECHNOLOGICAL AND INVESTMENT DEVELOPMENT

On August 16, Academician Elena Ceaușescu, DSc., First Deputy Prime Minister of Romania, Chairman of the National Council for Science and Education, received at Snagov Jacovir Obrtna, Deputy Prime Minister of the Czechoslovak government, Chairman of the State Commission for Technological and Investment Development.

During the interview, issues were approached related to the further development of Romanian-Czechoslovak technical and scientific collaboration in important areas of scientific research.

Emphasis was placed on the ascending course of the collaboration between Romanian and Czechoslovak scientists — which

fulfill in line with the fine rules of friendship and many-sided cooperation between the two parties, countries and peoples — and the determination was expressed to work for the development and diversification of bilateral cooperation in the basic sectors of the economy, scientific research and application of technical progress.

The understandings reached during summit meetings and talks were shown to have created favourable preconditions for the expansion of Romanian-Czechoslovak cooperation in scientific and technological research, as well as in other areas of activity, for the benefit of the Romanian and Czechoslovak peoples, of the general cause of peace and understanding among nations.

## ROMANIA IN THE WORLD • ROMANIA IN THE WORLD

### TRADITIONAL PARTICIPATION IN THE BOGOTA INTERNATIONAL FAIR

The expansion of the commercial relations Romania has with 148 states is eloquently illustrated by the favourable evolution registered by the development of the economic relations with the Latin American countries. A telling example in this respect is the intensification of the Romanian-Colombian goods exchanges.

This year, for instance, Romania has delivered on the Colombian market all-

planes determined a steady participation of the Romanian foreign trade enterprises in the Bogota International Fair. As Dumitru Enea, director of the Romanian pavilion at the 17th edition of the event hosted by the Colombian capital, stressed, "Romania participated for the 16th time in this exhibition. Both the public and experts appreciated the Romanian machine building, electrical engineering and chemistry exhibits. ARO 10 and ARO 210 all-terrain cars, already known by the Colombian partners, enjoyed great success".

As our colleague said, not only the ARO cars are well appreciated in Colombia but also the DACIA car; it is frequently seen here, being used as taxi in Bogota.

"Besides the all-terrain cars — the director of the Romanian pavilion further said — special attention went to the electric counters and the DAC 32320

DF trucks, the S 835-type caterpillars and various machines. The electric counter enjoyed both public and commercial success. These products won an international trophy organized by the Colombian end users with a large and prestigious international participation, for the high reliability and long operation endurance.

Commercially, the Romanian participation in Bogota '88 was a success. Thus, during the fair a series of contracts were signed regarding the delivery of Colombia of spare parts for trolleys, industrial and household counters, metallurgical products, chemicals and others. At the same time, the Bogota exhibition was an excellent opportunity for negotiations meant to intensify bilateral cooperation in the near future.

AL. MARINESCU



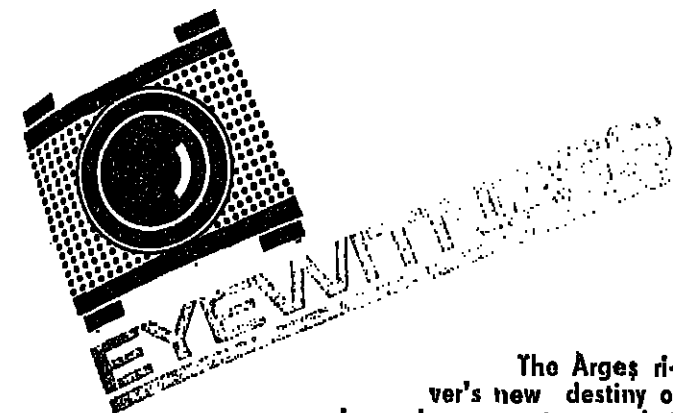
One of the latest types of drilling rigs made at the Tirovisti oil-field equipment enterprise, offered for export

### ARO IN THE WORLD

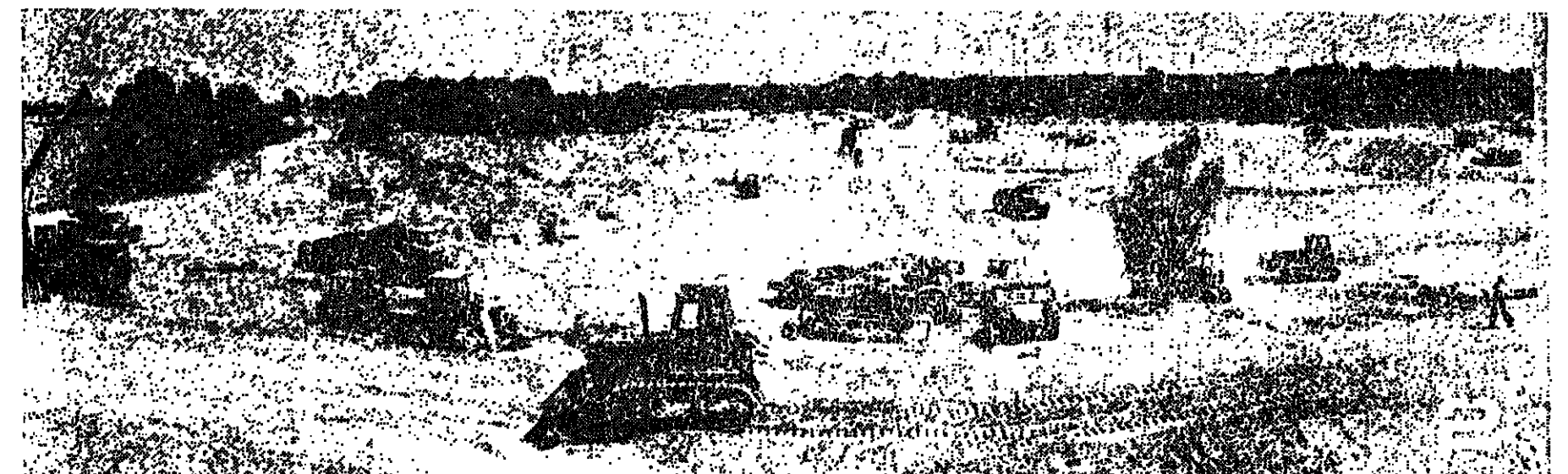
From their first contact with the outer world, the ARO land rovers manufactured at Clujputing, Mureș have joined the world elite.

Let us call up some of the trophies received in international contests: The Fortuna Cup in Nevada — the USA (1973), the Cartagena Prize in Colombia (1974), the Safari Cup, in Great Britain (1975) and many others, won with cars which had not been prepared especially for that type of contests. ARO was the first to cross the finish line in the Forests Rally and the Swamps Rally, both of them organized in Belgium, in the People's Rally (France), in the Italian Rally which took place around the Lake Maggiore, in the United States as part of the Beach Song Rally held in Oregon, etc. — all in all 10 prestigious world rallies.

Foreign specialists speak about ARO with respect and valuation. The French 4x4 magazine ran that "ARO can mount anything" — always implying, but never equating, the vehicle that none can overcome any terrain, on any weather and any season with its technical originality and novelty. Automobile of America's "PARO" is a car with very good performance by the highway and on rough terrain, allowing it to rank among the first ten of the world's best land rovers. Moreover, it is very attractive.



The Argeș river's new destiny of becoming a waterway between Bucharest and the Danube and at the same time of offering safe and constant discharges for irrigations on a large farming area of the Ilfov Agricultural Sector and in Giurgiu and Călărași counties, is now skilfully and tenaciously translated into facts by thousands upon thousands of people equipped with an impressive technical arsenal. For some time, the 14,000 constructors working on the building site have been helped by another 4,000 arriving from 40 counties of the country and organized in complex brigades. The people and their machines change the Argeș's look throughout 83 km.



1 Work never stops on the Argeș river development building site. The photo-reporter reached the building site entrusted to a complex brigade made up of constructors from Ilfov county in the evening. The night shift was ready to take over.

2 Hundreds of machine tools were scattered along the whole site: excavators, tip-up lorries, concrete mixing machines, graders, cranes, etc. But, naturally, the most important is the human factor: at this hour 18,000 people are working on the building sites of the Argeș river.

3 At Adunăuș-Copăcel, the present motor bridge, prolonged, widened and raised will be moved up-

stream some 20 meters. Currently work is in progress on the bridge-supporting elements.

4 Until the canal is completed, some time will pass. But the future blue waterway has already had visitors: they are pupils from Sibiu, winners of a contest. Their prize was this on-the-spot lesson of Romania's new geography.

5 View from the future Bucharest—30 December port. In this spot however there will be no ships, only trains. In the background, one can see the reinforcement of the longitudinal beam which will support the wharf. And on the wharf trains will load and unload goods on and from ships.





# IN THE FUTURE AGROINDUSTRIAL CENTRE OF FUNDULEA

THE HUMAN AND URBANISTIC GEOGRAPHIC PRESENT OF AN IMPORTANT SCIENTIFIC CENTRE

## on the scene

In a possible dictionary of cultivated plants, several pages for the letter F should be devoted to Fundulea. For there are a few dozens of varieties and hybrids of cereals, technical and fodder plants that are called Fundulea.

In fact Fundulea is a plain village naturally evolving towards an urban condition in an altogether special manner. Here everybody is concerned with agriculture, on various levels, from the vegetable garden near one's house, to fundamental scientific research. The palette of the professional training of the people who work in the commune is impressive: farming mechanics, agronomists, biologists, chemists, physicists, foremen and mechanical engineers, animal breeders, zootechnicians, veterinarians, nutritionists, geneticists, pharmacists, teachers, programmers etc. All of them carry on agriculture-related activities, whether they work at the cooperative farm, the agriculture mechanization station, the agricultural high school, the Sugar Beet Growing Research Institute, the Central Station for Medicinal Herb Growing Research, or at the Cereal and Technical Crop Research Institute (ICPT) etc.

Of the 3,600 jobs existing in the village 600 are held by people with higher training. Two out of one hundred engineers are doctors of science. Some of those who work here are members of the Romanian Academy of Agricultural and Silvicultural Sciences and of other important scientific forums abroad. For instance, engineer Cristian Hera, DSc, was elected chairman of the soil fertility commission by the world congresses in Moscow and Edmonton. He is also a permanent expert of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Viorel Vranceanu, DSc, is the coordinator of the FAO programme for sunflower growing, and Emil Păun, DSc, is a UNIDO expert etc.

Fundulea village also has a rich publishing life. Periodically issued here are the Annals of the Cereal and Technical Crop Research Institute, Probleme teoretice și aplicative de agrotehnică (Theoretical and Applied Questions of Agrotechnology), Protecția plantelor (Plant Protection) Probleme teoretice și aplicative de genetică (Theoretical and Applied Questions of Genetics).

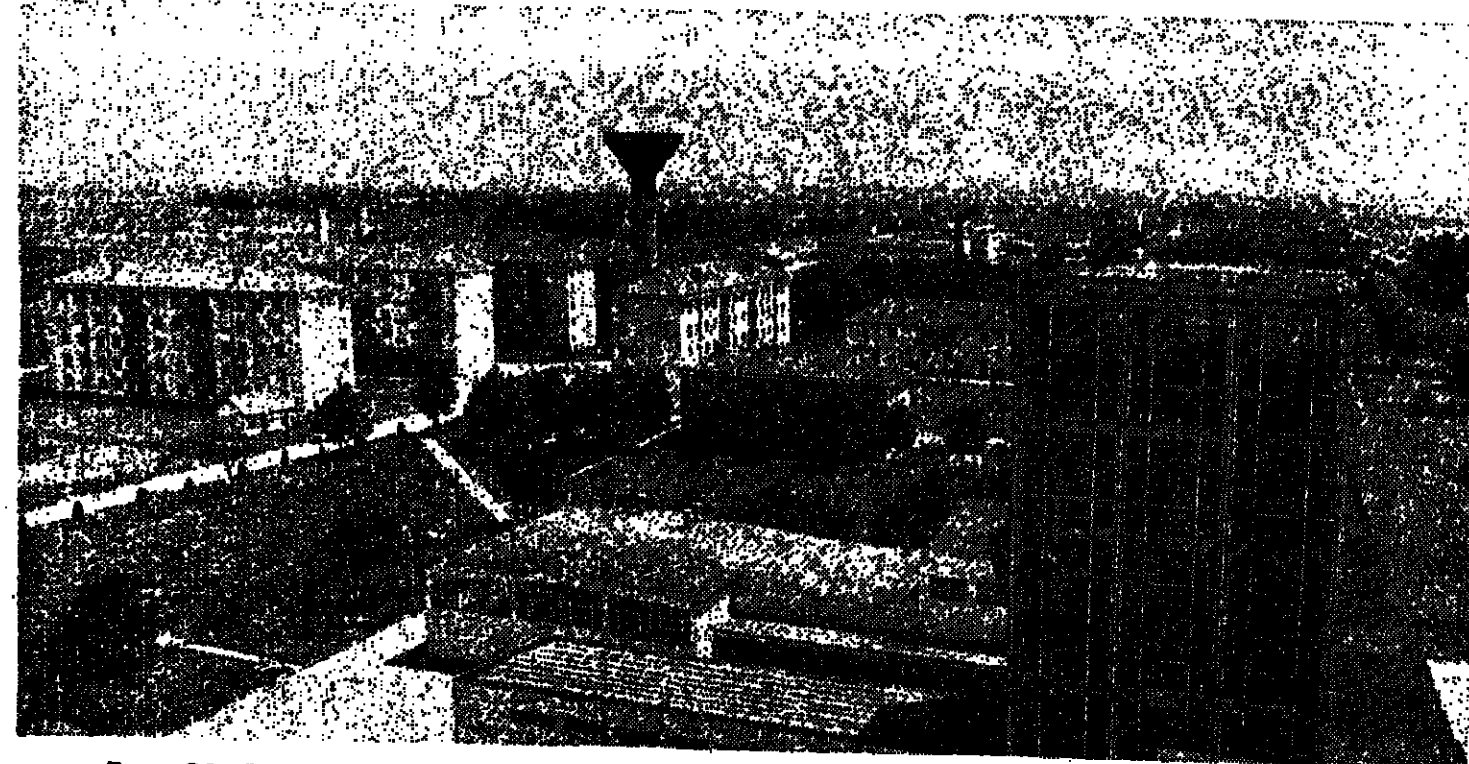
The same people you usually meet in Fundulea commune can be seen in Rome, Moscow, Cairo or Beijing, because those who work in Fundulea travel all over the world, while Fundulea is often visited not only by specialists but also by heads of state and government who want to see one of the possible variants of the agriculture of the next millennium.



biotechnologies and genetic engineering, phytohybrids and other alternative energy sources.

The researches are conducted on a contract basis both in the institute's central and in other research units in this country. For — as Paul Varga pointed out — while in industry the manufacturing technology of a certain product can be the same in any part of the globe, in agriculture technologies differ from one region to another. "Agriculture," he said, "is a science of the place". Consequently, ICPT of Fundulea subordinates 13 stations and collaborates with a few dozen research units. The institute's collaborators also include agronomy faculties, agricultural enterprises and peasant cooperatives, providing another form of research with education and production. ICPT Fundulea is its capacity as coordinator of

Overall view of the Station of Research into Cereals and Industrial Plants of Fundulea (centre, left) and some blocks of plots (bottom) accompanying aspects from research laboratories, greenhouse and field.



## A 7,000 HECTARE LABORATORY

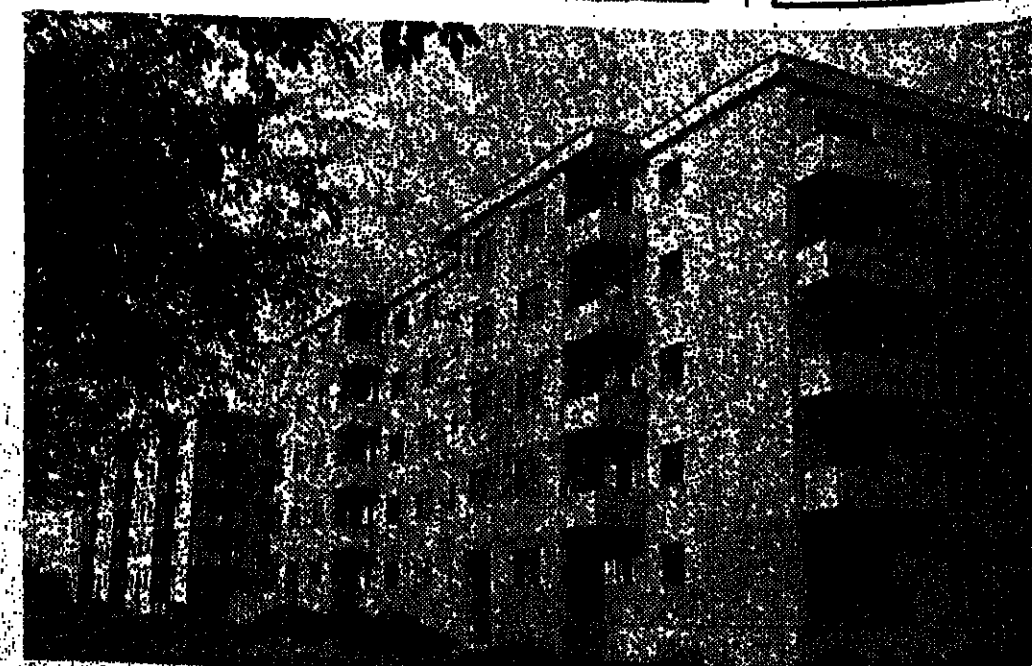
By its economic dimension and the scientific value of its activity the Cereal and Technical Crop Research Institute is the most important institution at Fundulea. "Our concerns" — Paul Varga, DSc, said — "primarily focus on developing new highly productive varieties and hybrids, with a high content of useful substances, resistant to diseases, pests, unfavourable weather (frost, drought, scorching heat etc.), suitable for mechanization and for an intensive culture system, and which should make best use of the water and fertilizer."

My colleague noted that in agriculture technical aspects were more closely related to the social, economic, political etc. context than in industry. That is precisely why one is seeking optimum crop technologies for obtaining maximum outputs with low energy con-

sumptions, the most efficient measures of disease, pest and weed control as part of an integrated system with a minimum consumption of chemical substances, both for cutting expenses and for protecting the environment.

One does not avoid theoretical questions of fundamental research either. Setting out from the premise that today's theory is tomorrow's practice, the institute has developed significant genetic, physiological and plant biochemistry studies.

At present ICPT coordinates 15 research programmes of national interest which include 200 themes with over 1,000 experiments. Their wide concerns range from researches for boosting the production of some plants (wheat, barley, rye, vetch, maize, oats, sorghum, poplar, beans, flax, hemp, cotton etc.) to



these programmes, resembles an orchestra conductor who harmonizes the sounds of several instruments in one tune. The researchers — he employs are usually the best professionals in this country.

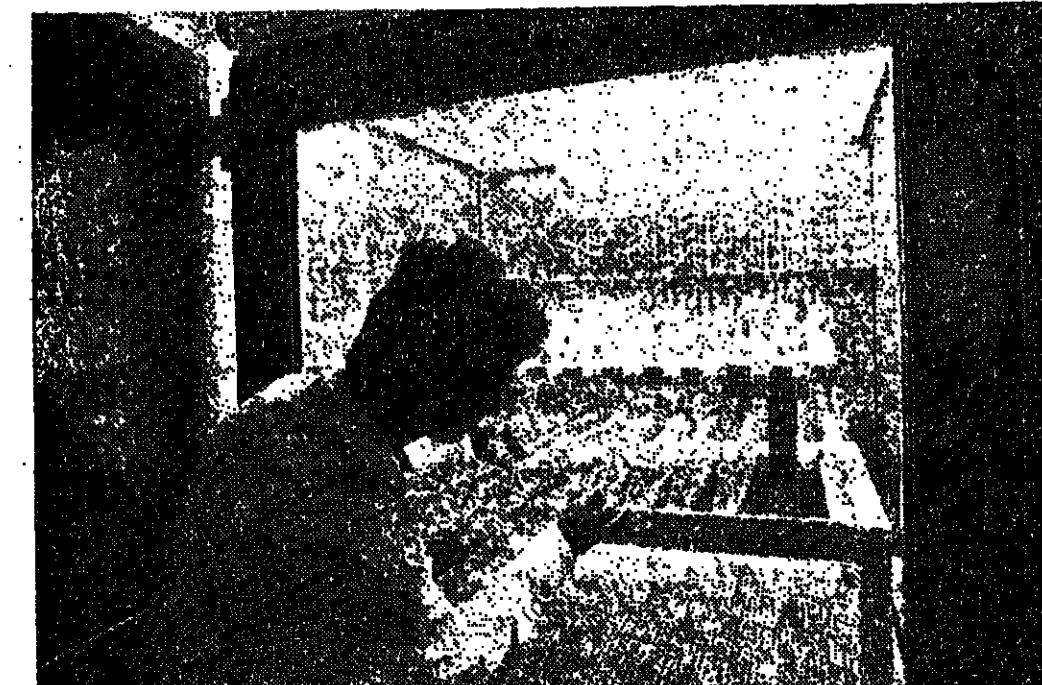
Given the specific nature of the questions he studies, the farming researcher cannot confine himself to laboratory work. He must verify any experiment in the field. With its 7,000 hectares, ICPT Fundulea can with

good reason be considered an immense open-air laboratory. Some 1,200 ha are devoted to experiments, while 5,800 ha are used for actual production. It is there that the ideas gained through research are materialized. Eight farms specialize in producing seeds of superior biological categories. The complex for drying, threshing, conditioning, treating and storing this seeds has a capacity of 15,500 tons.

## THE GENETICISTS' WONDER PLANTS

The potato, that wonder plant developed in the laboratory by crossing potatoes with potatoes, which has tubers and whose fruits are edible tomatoes continues to amaze people. "The Romanian researchers" — engineer Marian Verzeu, head of the genetic engineering collective said — "have set themselves a no less spectacular long-term goal: transferring the perennial character from wild species to the main cereals cultivated in this country."

professionalism, enthusiastically pursuing an idea, permanently dissatisfied with his work. The passion for research is the "internal combustion" of progress. The researchers of Fundulea make up one family cherishing the same ideals. And nothing is more praiseworthy than their incurable diseases inflicted by the virus of science, a disease prolonging life and preserving spiritual youth in search of an ideal.



wheat and maize." Combining cell nuclei from different plants is not very easy either. The Fundulea researchers, with the assistance of a specialized institute in Cluj-Napoca, have devised an apparatus for the electrofusion of the protoplasts (cells whose membrane has been removed). But the further steps to be taken are obscure, with infinite variants.

Pursuing a nearer goal are Marian Verzeu's researches aimed at developing triticales varieties adequate to the climate and soil in this country. Triticale is also an artificial plant, like the potato. They were obtained a century ago by crossing wheat and rye. It was only after 1950 that it started rivalling the producers' interest. Today it is cultivated on hundreds of thousands of hectares. My colleague said his researches from home-grown wheat and rye varieties and lines perfectly adapted for obtaining primary forms of triticales. From them the melliorants will select the most high-yielding forms.

In the near future, the geneticists of Fundulea will be concerned with devising the technology of in vitro reproduction from tissues and cells for the native biological material, obtaining haploid plants, (with only half of the ordinary number of chromosomes) and the in vitro selection of the "excellent" plants (salt-tolerant, drought-resistant, great adaptation to cold, etc.).

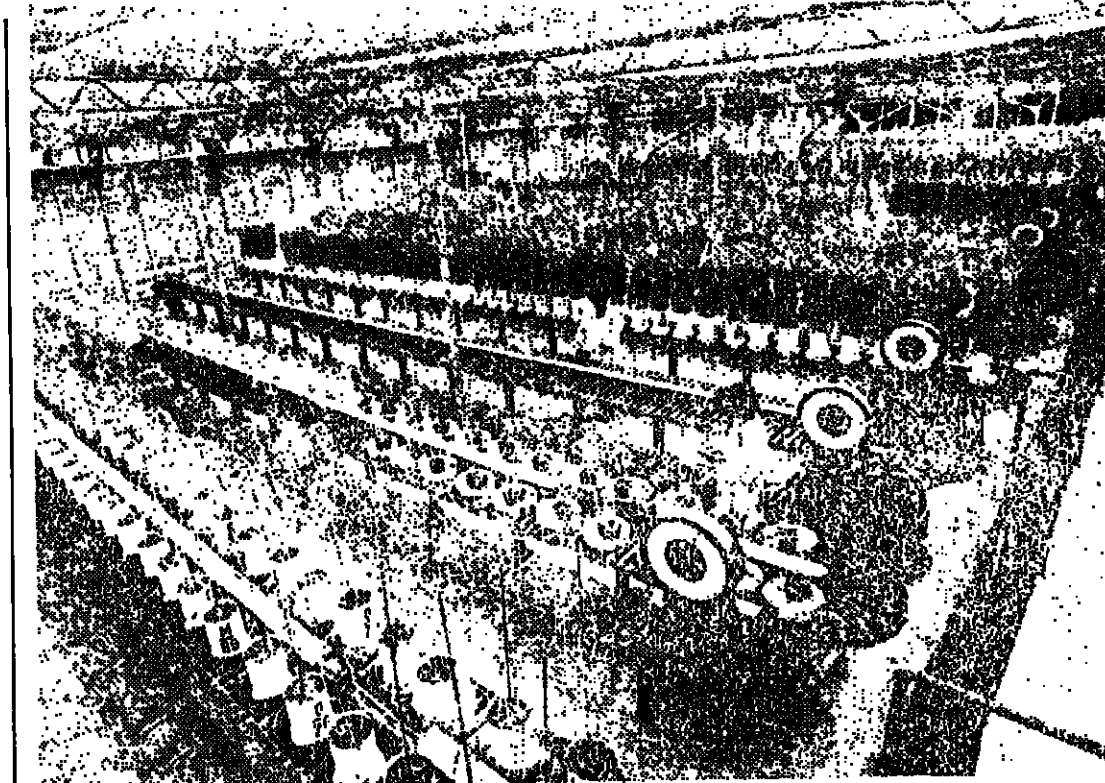
A melliorant's dream — said my colleague — is to bring together in a vegetal organism all favourable characteristics that have many years been taking to transform a single variety into just one that from one wheat to another.

As part of the wheat, rye and triticales research programme, last year a team of researchers headed by engineer N. Stănescu, DSc, homologated the Fundulea 4 wheat strain credited with an average yield of 3,300 kg per ha. The same team has more recently submitted to the national strain testing and homologation commission (CIOS) another hybrid, Flămânța 05. In the recently completed campaign, this hybrid proved it can yield 3,800 kg of wheat per ha on irrigated soils, not only at Fundulea but also at the Gălbenești experimental station.

Other spectacular strains are Carina peas (3,200 kg/ha), and another two pea strains, not yet homologated, having a productive potential of 5,000 kg per ha (current average harvests are of 2,000 kg/ha). Adonis locuana, homologated in 1987, has this year produced 89 tons of green mass per ha on the Fundulea fields at the first two sowings alone.

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Another group of researchers headed by engineer Alexandru Bude, DSc, has advanced to CIOS two new strains of barley



## URBAN STRUCTURES

"We are among the first to apply the newly-developed technologies on the plots of the cooperative farms," said the director of the Farming Machinery Station, mechanic for many years, Bodariu. He had been working here since he was 17, in 1953, when the commune boasted just a couple of tractors of the first types manufactured in Romania. Today, the station has already owns 280 tractors and 80 self-propelled combines. The area it works covers nearly 10,000 ha — the property of the cooperative members in the area. He, too, like all farming mechanics in the area, is a native of these places. "There is a great stability of the personnel staffing all units in our commune," said mayor Rada Stănescu. On the one hand,

nearly all those who work in the commune live here, and, on the other, nearly all those who live in the commune work here. Although Fundulea lies at barely 30 km from Bucharest, therefore at a convenient distance for commuting, very few people have been lured by the city. The people living and working here lack nothing of what the town offers them. Because, even if administratively Fundulea is still a village, living conditions, the economic and cultural standard are by now on a par with those in towns.

The commune boasts a modern shopping network including a supermarket, and a wide range of services unit meeting the immediate needs — from brick laying and drying to elec-



tronic repairs and car servicing. People can look after their health at the two dispensaries and the hospital (having about 100 beds) in the village, with dentistry, pediatrics and general medicine sections. The children can also enjoy the school, from the native village. There is also a sports club, a women's club, a football stadium, tennis courts etc. The agricultural station and the new village house are connected to the running water and sewerage networks.

G. OSTROVIANU



# THE BLACK GOLD OF THE BLACK SEA

Romania was the first country in the world recorded in international statistics for its crude extraction in 1858. Bucharest was among the first cities in the world illuminated with lamp oil. Romania built the first methane pipeline in Europe. It also ranks among the first six countries in the world as regards natural gas extraction and among the first three oil-equipment exporters in the world. We are among the first ten countries in the world to have taken the research, drilling and exploitation of the crude deposits in the continental shelf in their own hands. To anyone knowing — and who does not? — the meaning of competition in this energy-thirst century, the facts above mean not only tradition and ambition, but also policy.

Starting from the complex geological structure of Romania's territory and from the consideration that the country's economic development must be sheltered as far as possible, against reliance on imported raw materials, Romania's industrial policy has grounded the country's industrialization on the principle of meeting the needs of the national economy with domestic resources in the largest possible measure. Programmes are under way investigating big-depth (over 4,000 m) geological formation. Programmes are under way exploring and exploiting the Romanian Black Sea continental shelf. The programmes fall in line with the world trend of extending activities to the marine environment and to other hardly accessible regions of crude and natural gas producing areas. The first Romanian offshore drilling rig was launched on November 9, 1975. On August 20, 1976 a ship convoy led the Gloria rig to its first location, 130 km off the coast.

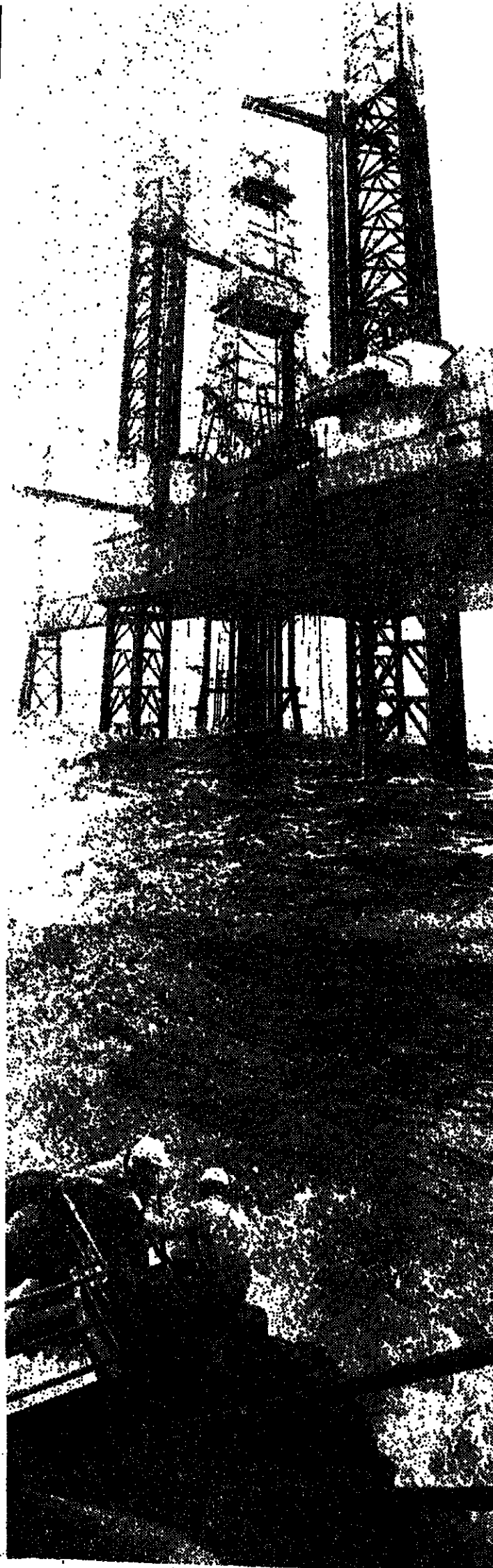
Years have gone by. Other highly complex drilling platforms, nearly 100 per cent Romanian-built, have been launched. How are they doing? With this and other similar questions on my mind I was sailing on the Leblada ship towards the secret archipelago of the offshore drilling rigs.



"The passengers bound for Patromir should get ready to disembark."

Made through the loudspeaker the announcement had nothing in common with the sweet voice accompanying take-offs

and landing on Otopeni airport. The deck had been crowded as soon as the silhouettes of the first platforms had appeared in the distance. Offshore oil workers have something in common with the commuters who know they have reached their destination without the help of an alarm clock and wake up from their sound sleep exactly when the train enters the station. They were waiting patiently, holding their luggage, listening to the mooring orders: Stop engines. Tack! Right, slowly backwards! Rudder 15



The camera accompanied the author of this reportage among the Black Sea oil workers. The main scene of the action is the Gloria platform. Here is a front view of it (p. 8, top). Originally it was a drilling rig which was later re-adjusted for extraction. Its dimensions are 40 x 49 metres, which is half the size of a football pitch. A knowledgeable eye will notice the pumping installations in the photo. They take up half of the area. The other half is reserved for sea water injection installations. From Gloria one can see the slender neighbouring platform, Farunda (p. 8, left). There are only two of the six offshore rigs set up in the Black Sea.

It looks like the gondola of an old-line barge (p. 9, centre). But it is not. It is a platform, held by a cable, which shuttles between the craft and the platform. It is not only people but also containers, engines, tools, rolled goods, all kinds of things necessary to the oil workers. The latter (p. 9, top right) keep the professions they need to have land: extraction operator, injection operator, overhauling driller etc.

Anyway, the symbolism between all workers and sailors (p. 9, bottom) can be encountered everywhere, even in the platform's kitchen (p. 10, centre, right).

degrees. Left, slowly forward. Throw anchor! Stop engines! On the platform there is a great bustle. Everyone is wearing their winter clothes; some, because they had just arrived and had had no time to change, others because they were waiting ready to leave on the ship which had brought us. Among the last experts in the field, which had brought us, the assistant lecturer engineer in Ploesti, he is the head of the platform for the outgoing shift. He could spare just the time needed for pumping out a day's king-water tank from the Leblada ship — that is 45 minutes. He invited us to the hall of the club and briefly informed us:

"You are on the Gloria, isn't it? It was a drilling platform. Now we use it for extraction. We send the oil through a underwater pipeline to the Farunda ship anchored one mile from this platform. When the ship is filled up, the oil is transported on shore by another tanker — Bucsan. The high-pressure gas is carried by a 50-km long pipeline. Its terminal is at Mida."

"What are the dimensions of the platform?"

"It is about half as big as a football stadium. More exactly 40 x 49 metres, to which we should add the 80-m long tow bridge. Half of the area is taken up by extraction installations: the other half by the seawater injection installations, which are used to prevent the loss of the deposit pressure. In other words, the amount of oil extracted from the deposit is replaced by specially prepared water. All operations are automated. We do not get to see the oil unless we want to. Everything is light-locked. As a safety measure, in strong wind conditions (over 25 m/s or 100 km/h) we close the wells. We are organized in several departments — mechanical, production, maintenance and control systems. I have noticed that in newspapers we are called either oilworker-sailors or the other way round. Maybe you should make the following suggestion: on the platform we preserve the names of the operations used on shore: extraction operators, injection operators. We work 12 hours at rest 12 hours. No more, no less. Some think that anyone can come to work on the platform. The truth is that only those who stay are selected. The discipline is quite strict. No drinking (alcohol, of course) and no smoking. You have to stay in your room. On the platform there is no room for mistakes."

"Is that so?"

"Indeed it is. Both for extraction and injection, the machines are closely monitored by apparatus in their turn supervised by other machines and obviously, by people. Everyone is highly skilled. You shall have plenty of time to see this by yourselves. The pay is equal to that on shore, but substantial bonuses are added. The gulfmen, in fact, have excellent living conditions. In a two-story block of flats. The cabins have two or four beds. All in all, we accommodate 84 people. There are bathrooms, sanitary installations, a club, all that is necessary for a man to live a normal life. I wanted to mention this because engineer Dumitru Urs, head of the platform and with whom you have arrived here, is on leave. Engineer Veloscu will take over. I'm so sorry but I have to catch my ship."

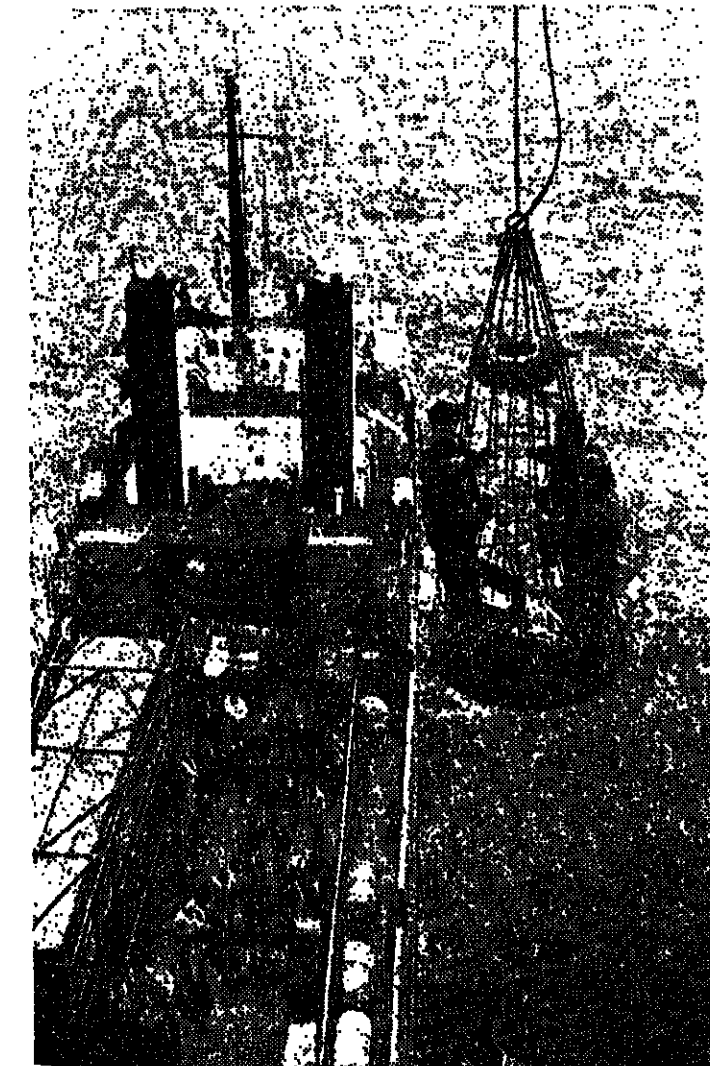
"What about your men?"

"They worked in the city which found oil, in fact. We all know one another well. There is nothing you can take from the others."

"Which are the most difficult moments on Gloria?"

"Storms, such as those we had in winter... and the moment I leave my home in Ploesti. It was late in the evening when Leblada I 'hosted' the sails. She had a couple of extra strands to make that night. The oil workers of the out-going shift would reach the shore only on the next morning. Most of them lived in Constantza, Mida, Argea, and Mangalia. But there were some who spent two or three days on the road. Driller Ion Sciriu went to Suceava, mechanic Johann Kibschner to Sibiu, foreman George Iadorean to Medias. Off-shore platforms are a real magnet for the best oil workers in Romania. In order to select the best, Petromar organizes extremely hard professional contests. But the candidates for a job on the platform always exceed the entry. Could it be only a matter of sea, as engineer Ion Popa claimed? That was a question which I was determined to solve the next day."

We were invited to the canteen. The meals were delicious, all the three of them (you got food four times a day! breakfast — 5-6.30 a.m.,

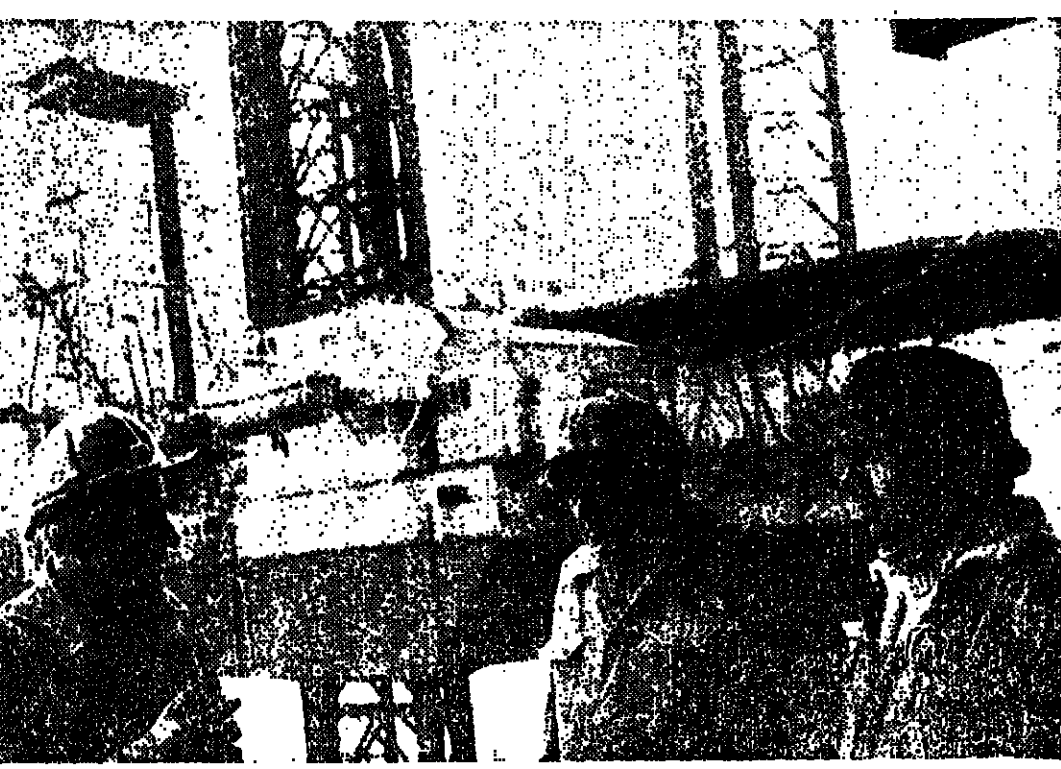


lunch — 11-12.30; small supper — 17-18.30 and big supper 22-24. People came and ate whenever they wanted — 'sea makes one hungry'. Tables are solidly fastened to the ground. Chairs are provided with chains. Why? Was my natural question. Ion Olteanu, administrator of the platform

— they have even that kind of job there — liked to make jokes. He said: 'For fear they might get away on a stormy night'. Then he led me to the cabin reserved for us; spacious, fridge, table, bedside lamps, air conditioning system, neat bunk beds, carpet, bathroom, hot water,

cold water, mirrors, towels, soap... Everything you need. I know some first class hotels whose rooms bear no comparison with what I found here! I had my first shock when opened the wardrobe: the bottom shelf was displaying an orange life-jacket!

Engineer Mircea Veloscu showed us around, climbing up or down scores, hundreds of steps. In a way the platform looks like an exhibition of national economy achievements. On an extremely small area, rising 80 metres in height, residing all kinds of labels stuck on machines, installations and equipment, you can wander obviously with your mind — through enterprises from every corner of the country: the body and feet of the platform are made at Galati; the lower, chain hoist and the mumps of the ship — at Ploesti; the ja-



cket (a construction specific to productive platforms) — at Ploesti and Mangalia motors — at Resita and Craiova; lathes — at Arad; fixtures — at Tirgoviste; gauging instruments — at Birlad and Olapont; pumps — at the Aversa enterprise of Bucharest; board cranes — at Timisoara; separating equipment — at IJDER Telegraf, then IMUS Moreni, enterprises, institutes of Cluj-Napoca, Roman, Bucharest, Oradea...

I stopped by the Christmas trees built at Clujina and asked:

"How are they doing?"

"Great! They are of the solid-black type."

I was glad for the people of Clujina. I knew that the mechanical plant had made huge efforts to build the most powerful Christmas tree in the country, a dream which came true two years ago. And

"How do they work?"

"We use them to inject water in the oil deposit. We started the outbreak on November 21, 1978. Since then both of them have been operating round the clock at full capacity."

I received the answer from a man who knew what he was saying. His name was Neiu Motoc, a 50-year old specialist in tube maintenance and repairment. He has been working with the platform ever since its commissioning, in 1975. I tried again:

"You mean they have been operating continuously, 24 hours a day?"

"Of course. We are so careful about them, nothing can go wrong..."

Do you know any better definition for the notion of reliability or safety in operation? I decided to find the truth

I also knew that there, on a wall in the director's office, had been a kind of diploma, numbered 4381. Original, American Petroleum Institute, Certificate of Authority, the American Petroleum Institute hereby grants to Intreprinderii Mecanica Clujina, Romania, I had asked what was the use of that paper and I was told that it had a triple significance: practical, theoretical and symbolic. Practical because it warrants the replacement of tools produced by American firms with Romanian tools of the same family, when necessary; theoretical because it represents a real honour, especially for the fact that Romanian science and technology are able to put out things which are at least the equal of those made by the best manufacturers. Symbolic because it is a kind of card introducing one to the club of the biggest oil equipment suppliers in the world."

I returned to the humming of pumps labelled Ploesti Ploesti, Romania 2: PM 1988. I asked:

about some rumours and I asked Neiu Motoc if it was true that people did not last long on a platform. He said smiling:

"They do if they are disciplined and properly trained. After finishing the drilling work, we pass on to extraction. They do right. I know some people who came here in the same year I did. For instance mechanic Paul Marfale and motorist Nicolae Popescu. You wouldn't have guessed names to take them all down. Some remained on Gloria. Others work on Albatros, Jupiter, Fortuna, Prometeu, the other offshore drilling rigs of the Petromar constellation."

On my way back to the shore I was asked several times. I know that almost all oil workers from Gloria are, indeed, too, but not on the platform, but each time they come or go, with a little, the distance of 48 kilometres between the rigs and the shore turned out as a no-selector. However, one thing is clear: all of them come here to work out of love and passion."

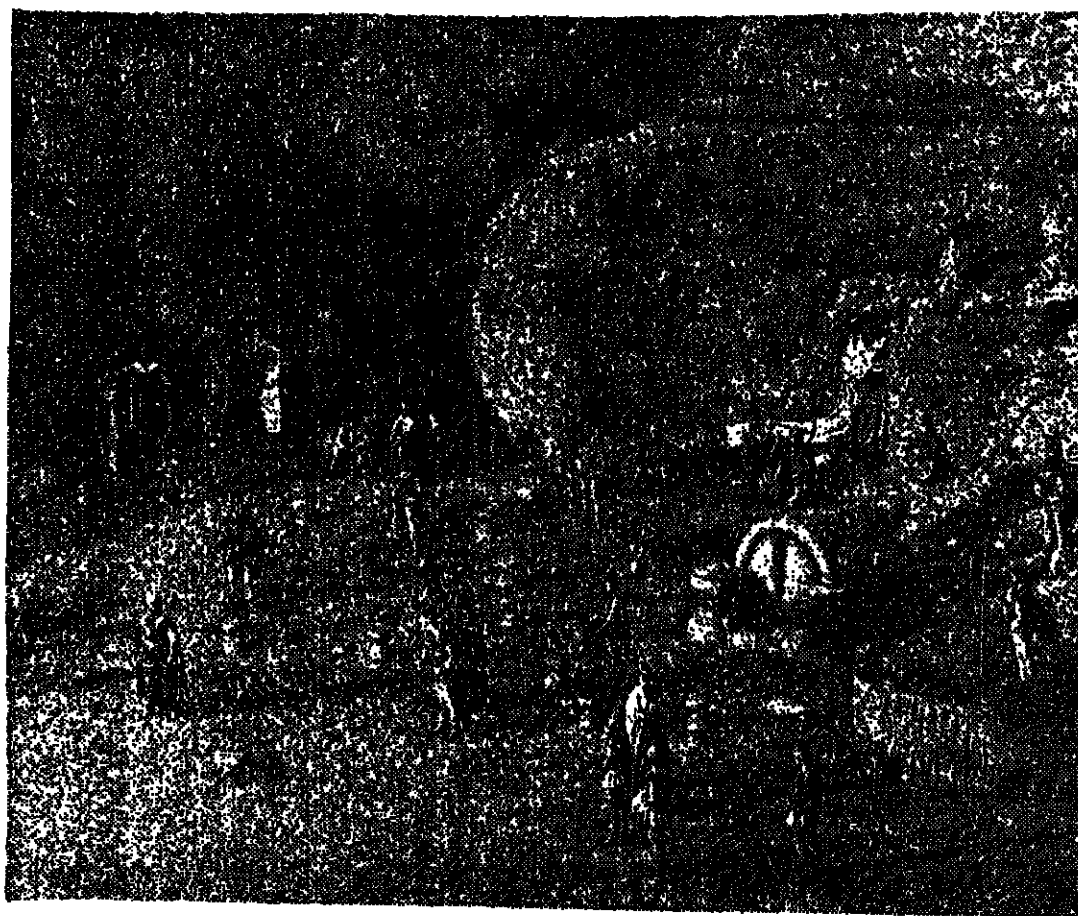
MIRCEA BUNEA











## A RESURRECTION: THE ANCIENT THEATRE



The Dramatic Theatre of Constantia is an artistic institution whose presence in the contemporary cultural landscape has become increasingly more manifest. Several remarkable performances, as well as a couple of enthusiastically welcomed initiatives have won it a large and faithful audience among theatre-goers. An idea which has elicited broad resonance was to organize sources of ancient drama. What did the spectators have in mind when they decided to stage such an event ten years ago? The theatre of Constantia proposed the concept of ancient plays, in the sense of giving new life to ancient... by presenting their against the background of the remains of Greek cities strewn along the Black Sea coast, namely at Tomis (today Constantia), Callatis (now Mangalia), Histria, Adamclia (Traianopolis), but also in other places of cultural interest along the shore of Pontus Euxinus.

The ancient drama sources have gained tremendous momentum. Plays never staged before or which had seen few performances were brought to the forefront of public attention by being mounted in open air, in unusual places. In parallel, Constantia's theatre proposed its audience contemporary texts or selections from works frequently evoking antiquity. Thus, ancient tragedy has found an unusually wide medium of understanding in the audience, now able to see and get the message of a drama whose ethic and aesthetic values are in-

testable. Another way of checking the topicality and endurance of texts composed two thousand years ago or more. And a unique occasion for us to live again a time lost for ever: an opportunity to meditate and try to get closer to the ancient model of that drama which was played particularly under the clear sky, within cities whose

walls held out against sea waves and storms of time. Along several editions, the ancient drama sources have included different types of shows, seen through as many directorial eyes, in which the performance of the actors of the Dramatic Theatre of Constantia was carried far beyond the simple professional devotion, taking into consideration the difficulty of staging such plays. There were several outstanding shows, including The Legends of the Atrides, a selection of excerpts from the ancient drama pervaded by a single theme, presented on the shore of Histria.



## THE 4TH - 5TH CENTURIES ON THE LOWER DANUBE

The work, *Moesia Secunda*, Scythia and Notitia Dignitatum, by Mihail Zaharade was brought out in the prestigious "Archaeology Library" series by the Publishing House of the Academy. Such a lengthy research on the data supplied by Notitia Dignitatum — a historical document of great value on the organization of the civil and military administration in the late Roman Empire (the 5th century) is carried out in the Romanian historiography for the first time. This data included in this historical source on Moesia Secunda and Scythia provinces — which included parts of today's Romanian territory — are added to other documentary sources: literary sources, inscribed documents, epigraphic and numismatic evidence, archaeological research. On this basis is reconstructed the picture

of the area's civil and military administration system, the moment of the creation of provinces, the stretching of their borders; the author insists then on the troops stationed here, the fortification system built in the area, its efficiency in the confrontation with migratory peoples trying to penetrate the empire. A substantial chapter is devoted to the life of the region, of the economic and commercial life of the region. On the whole, this is a valuable work, of great use for knowing the realities of the 4th-5th centuries on the Lower Danube, where, despite hard times, life continued its course, socio-administrative structures adapting to the demands of the new conditions.

SILVIU ACHIM

## GETO-DACIAN VESTIGES

Digging has been carried out for some time at the Geto-Dacian necropolis at Teșești-Drăgoiești, located in the Tîrgu Jiu de Museum, wrote us. A rich ceramic, metallic and little material has been unearthed. Mention should be made of the bowls with ring-shaped bottom, small cups with high ears, jars with bell-shaped bottoms and buttons, three-legged vases, etc. The metal inventory is made up of iron swords with rivets, fighting daggers, spears, etc. The necropolis is located on a hill overlooking the river Jiu. The site of the necropolis is located on a hill overlooking the river Jiu. The site of the necropolis is located on a hill overlooking the river Jiu.



## THE INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS OF WORLD CHESS

A gold medal, three silvers and two bronzes. That was the record of the Romanian players who entered the world junior and children's chess championships, Florentino Campomanes, FIDE President, declared during a news conference: "My third visit to Timisoara will remain deeply impressed in my memory. Witnessing an encounter of so many young people aged between 7 and 16 was an experience we had not had in chess before. Of late we have endeavored to inspire young people to play fine chess. Some eight-year-olds play as well as the masters thanks to their thoroughness and concentration. There are excellent possibilities to influence the development of the

chess (under-16). Referring to the organization of this year's world junior and children's chess championships, Florentino Campomanes, FIDE President, declared during a news conference: "My third visit to Timisoara will remain deeply impressed in my memory. Witnessing an encounter of so many young people aged between 7 and 16 was an experience we had not had in chess before. Of late we have endeavored to inspire young people to play fine chess. Some eight-year-olds play as well as the masters thanks to their thoroughness and concentration. There are excellent possibilities to influence the development of the

the championships' success. I can safely affirm that Timisoara could regularly and successfully organize international competitions, especially for children and juniors, the experience of these championships being convincing enough. My sincere congratulations to the hosts."

Let us also mention the success enjoyed by the Swiss system according to which the competition was played, the order of the games having been judiciously established by a computer programme devised for the first time by Nicolae Zefirov and Mirela Lasen of Timisoara, who also prominently displayed on the scoreboard the standings after each round.

M. CONSTANT



point out of a possible 11. Corina Peptan is a pupil of the General School in Sadu, Gorj County. Silver medals went to Gabriel Schwartzman (under-12), Ilieșcu Balint (under-14), Luminița Radu (under-16). The bronze medals were awarded to Francisc Nemeth (under-10) and Andrei Istrășcu.

world's young chess players. Timisoara is a good host in this respect. This was the first time when a competition including so many categories was staged in one city, and there has been no other sports event, except for the Olympiad, to bring together youths from over 60 countries. That is precisely why we are very pleased with

The European junior table tennis championships at Novi Sad ended with a remarkable success of the Romanian sportsmen who, during the eight-day competition, claimed eight medals, of which two gold, three silver and three bronze.

The star of the Romanian team was Otilia Bădescu who won the European title in a spectacular manner, defeating Veronika Krestianikova of the USSR 4-1 (21-18, 15-21, 21-18) in the final.

A couple of hours earlier, Otilia Bădescu and Călin Creangă had also snatched the mixed doubles gold.



## TWO RECORDS

A few days ago, the Romanian athlete Alina Astafei managed a 2-m high jump at 1.81 and 1.85 m, there followed 1.80 and 1.82 m. At 1.82 and 1.81 m the Romanian had to repeat the jump. But Velichina cleared 1.86 in the third attempt, with visible difficulty. Alina Astafei then managed a 1.88-m jump in the first attempt and finally settled her duel with Velichina with a 2-m world junior record which earned her the world title. She is sure however that she could have jumped 2.02 m if she had not given way to relaxation after her record-setting performance.

"The Olympics of Seoul", she said, will probably feature an extraordinary clash. I think that if I manage a 2.02-2.03-m jump there I could win a place on the honour stand. For the world record however I am not ready yet. It has been set at 2.09 m by the Bulgarian athlete Stefka Kostadinova."

Alina Astafei does not think she can exceed the performance of the famous Romanian athlete Iolanda Balaș who set a world record in her career, but she hopes that sometime soon she will enjoy at least part of that remarkable sports-woman's fame.

M. STELIAN



## BALKAN SWIMMING CONTEST

Hosted by Bucharest, the 10th edition of the Balkan swimming contest benefited by excellent conditions provided by the specialized federation, and by an enthusiastic public who filled to capacity the tribunes of the 23 August swimming pool complex. Attending the event were sportsmen from Bulgaria, Greece, Yugoslavia, Turkey and Romania. To Romania, which hosted the entire Olympic team, the contest was a highly important test with will be followed by the forthcoming national championships. The Romanian swimmers won the competition in the overall standings, and in the women's final standings. The greatest interest was aroused by the performance of the Olympic women's team on whom Romanian sports fans justified hopes for the Seoul Olympics.

In the 50-m freestyle event, Tamara Costache won emphatically in 25.50 seconds, with her 4:18.44 minutes in the 100-m medley, Noemi Lung is an undoubted candidate for the Olympic finale. Stela Pușcu improved her own Balkan record in the 400-m freestyle and the 800-m butterfly, events where she stands the greatest Olympic challenge. Ana Pătrășcu, Constanta, the 100-m butterfly, broke the 2:00.00 mark, and Ana Pătrășcu, Constanta, broke the 2:00.00 mark, and Ana Pătrășcu, Constanta, broke the 2:00.00 mark.

In the men's events, Florin Vlașcă set a new Balkan record in the 100-m butterfly, also with 20.01 sec.

C. MARIAN







A NAME  
IN TODAY'S FASHION

CONFEX



CONFEX

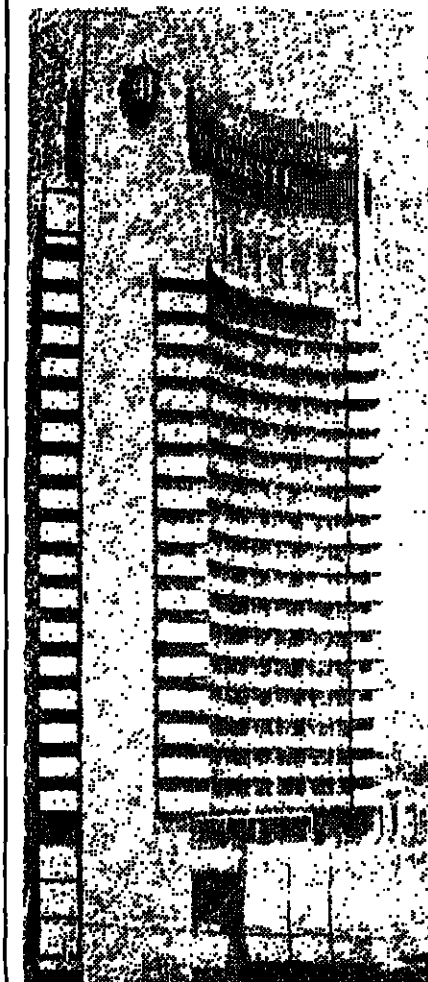
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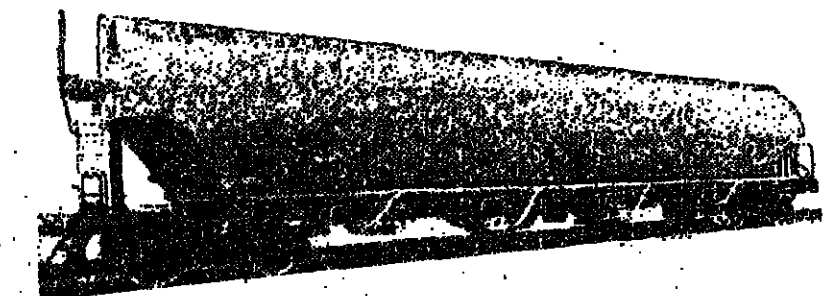
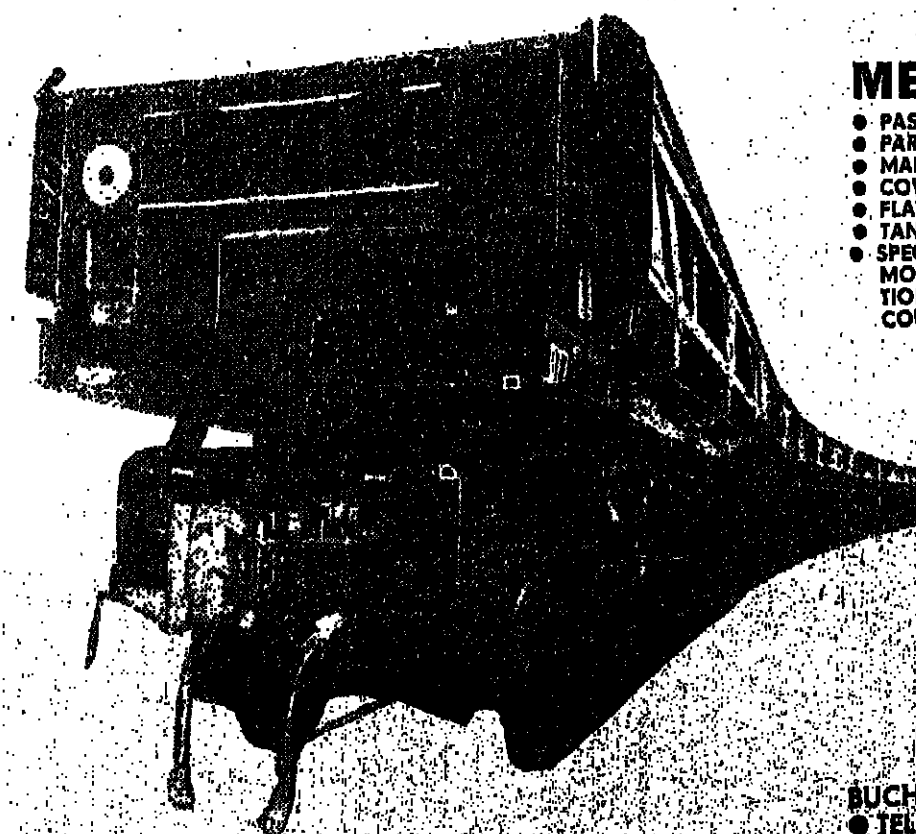
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